

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Priority

Applicants thank the examiner for the acknowledgement of the claim for foreign priority based on the application filed first in the European Patent Office September 18, 2002.

2. Drawings

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating in the accompanying form PTO-948 that the formal drawings previously submitted have been approved.

3. Specification

The information in paragraph [0020] of the specification is in need of an update, and a corresponding correction has been made above.

4. Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 13, objected to in the outstanding Office Action, are amended herein as suggested by the Examiner, such that claim 1 now recites "heat conductive medium" and claim 13 no longer includes a typographical error. Claims 11-15, previously submitted, are likewise amended to include the term "processing" in their respective preambles to better match the preamble of claim 1.

4. § 103 Rejections

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended herein to recite, in part:

the apparatus further comprises an inlet line passing through the pressure vessel wall, the inlet line positioned and arranged so as to be able to introduce one or more fluids to be processed into the microreactor, and an outlet line passing through the pressure vessel wall, the outlet line positioned and arranged so as to be able to remove one or more processed fluids from the microreactor.

This amendment is supported in the specification, for example, at paragraph [0021] on pages 6-7.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Knapp nor Swift teaches or suggests the recited features quoted above. Neither reference discloses both an inlet line for process fluids through the pressure vessel wall and an outlet line for processed fluids through the pressure vessel wall. The Suits reference adds nothing in this regard. Although the Figure of the Suits disclosure may appear to have inlet and outlet lines for fluids to be processed or for fluids that have been processed, the description makes clear that the inlets and outlets shown are not for fluids to be processed or for fluids that have been processed, and that access to the process chamber 26 is only obtained by disassembling the reactor. The present invention thus enables continuous processing, unlike the cited art. For this reason at least, claim 1 is believed to be allowable, and all other pending claims as well, since they all depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Claims 16 and 17

Claim 16 recites that the “inlet line is positioned and arranged so as to be capable of introducing into the volume surrounding the microreactor within the pressure vessel, one or more of the one or more fluids to be processed.” This is supported in the specification for example, at paragraph [0021] on pages 6-7. It is respectfully submitted that none of the references of record teaches or suggests these features.

Claim 17 recites that the “outlet line is positioned and arranged so as to be capable of withdrawing from the volume surrounding the microreactor within the pressure vessel, one or more of the one or more processed fluids.” This is supported in the specification for example, at paragraph [0031] on page 9. It is respectfully submitted that none of the references of record teaches or suggests these features.

For at least these additional reasons, claims 16 and 17 are believed to be allowable over the art of record.

5. Conclusion

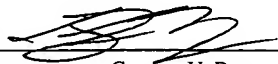
Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of record, Applicant believes the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims and a prompt Notice of Allowance thereon

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 11-15 remain in this application. Claims 1 and 11-15 have been amended. New claims 16 and 17 have been added.

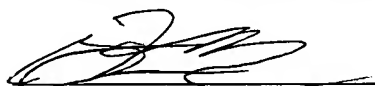
Applicant believes that a three-month extension of time is necessary to make this Reply timely. Should applicant be in error, applicant respectfully requests that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Gregory V. Bean at 607-974-2698.

19 Jan 2008
Date

<p><u>CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION</u> <u>UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8</u></p> <p>I hereby certify that this paper and any papers referred to herein are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service, as first class mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on</p> <p>21 January, 2008</p> <p>Date</p> <p> Gregory V. Bean</p> <p>19 Jan 08 Date</p>
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Respectfully submitted,
CORNING INCORPORATED


Gregory V. Bean
Registration No. 36,448
Corning Incorporated
Patent Department
Mail Stop SP-TI-03-1

Corning, NY 14831